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Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 05703 231106Z

10
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 SS-15 NSC-05 INR-07 /039 W
---------- 120351
P 230940Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8485

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EO 11653: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (DERWINSKI, EDWARD J.), KS
SUBJECT: VISIT TO KOREA OF EDWARD J. DERWINSKI

1. REPRESENTATIVE EDWARD J. DERWINSKI VISITED KOREA JULY 16-19 AS GUEST OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. ACCOMPANIED BY WIFE AND TWO CHILDREN, HE CHARACTERIZED VISIT AS PARTLY OFFICIAL AND PARTLY FAMILY TRIP.

2. IN ADDITION TO ONE HOUR AND 20 MINUTE EMBASSY BRIEFING, REP. DERWINSKI'S SCHEDUULE INCLUDED CALLS ON PRESIDENT PARK, PRIME MINISTER, SPEAKER OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, AND FOREIGN MINISTER. HE ALSO ATTENDED LUNCHEON HOSTED BY KOREA - US ECONOMIC COUNCIL AND DINNER HOSTED BY AMBASSADOR SNEIDER, AT WHICH SENIOR BLUE HOUSE AND MOFA OFFICIALS WERE PRESENT. LOOSE SCHEDULING OF OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS PERMITTED REP. DERWINSKI AND FAMILY TIME TO SIGHTSEE IN SEOUL, SPEND AN AFTERNOON AT SUWON FOLK VILLAGE, AND VISIT PANMUNJOM.

3. ACCORDING TO REP. DERWINSKI, IN PRIVATE TALKS WITH KOREAN OFFICIALS HE POINTED OUT THAT, WHILE HE INTENDS TO CONTINUE BEARING THE STANDARD IN KOREA'S BEHALF, RESISTANCE IN CONGRESS TO PRESENT LEVEL COMMITMENT IS GROWING APACE WITH CONCERN OVER HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE. REP. DERWINSKI EMPHASIZED THAT IF EFFORTS BY KOREA'S SUPPORTERS ARE TO BE EFFECTIVE THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT MUST DEMONSTRATE RESPONSIVENESS TO CONGRESSIONAL MOOD ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE.
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4. PRESS COVERAGE OF VISIT CONSISTED OF PAGE TWO ITEMS
IN TWO MAJOR KOREAN LANGUAGE PAPERS AND LARGER PAGE ONE
STORY IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER, ALL OF WHICH DWELT ON
REP. DERWINSKI'S PUBLIC ASSURANCES AT KUSEC LUNCHEON
THAT US IS BASICALLY IN SUPPORRT OF KOREA AND THAT REGARDLESS
OF OUTCOME OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, US POLICY TOWARD KOREA
WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED BY THE NEXT ADMINISTRATION.
SNEIDER

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To: STATE
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